



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

* Alex Epstein, Chairman
* Charles Denison, Vice Chairman
* Ken Carlson, Secretary
* Ariel Horowitz
* Enid Kumin
Alan Moore
* Brian Postlewaite
Tim Talun
Tegin Teich

Ex-Officio:

Daniel Hadley, Office of the Mayor
Mark Niedergang, Board of Aldermen
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking
Deputy Chief Michael Cabral, Police Department
* Sarah Spicer, Office of Strategic Planning and Community

*=in attendance

October Bike Committee

Day/Date: Monday, October 20th, 2014

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: City Hall basement lounge

Procedural Business:

1. Acting Secretary: Ken Carlson
2. Guest introductions- Somerville residents: Tati Brezina, Natalie Brady (Bikes Not Bombs), Vaughn Simkins (SCATV), Hunter Gates, Ian Woloschin, Tom Lamar, Ron Newman, Alex Anderson, Katrina Crocker, David Gruzca
3. **VOTE: Approve Minutes: September 2014- approved**

New Business [15 min]

1. Illuminations Tour will be on Saturday December 13. Same ride as previous years following the Trolley route. There is a longer route option that Brian offers for those interested. Brian needs help with the poster, would like to have it done by Thanksgiving. Need volunteers to help marshall. Potential to organizing a casual finish line gathering at a nearby restaurant.
2. SCAT TV program, Bay State Biking News: Vaughn requests members of the committee to be recorded RE what's new in bicycling in Somerville. The program airs from 9:00 to 9:55 PM every Wednesday and is available online. Suggested 15 to 25 minute slot every month. Suggested that the Acting Secretary each month appear on Vaughn's show and that the Committee could designate at each meeting the main topics to be covered. **Action: Agenda item for next meeting.**
3. Discussion: upcoming ballot Question number 1 and the importance of a no vote to continue indexing of the gas tax. **Action- The Committee to share the Mayor's Facebook posts or articles on the topic.**

Events, education and outreach:

1. Tour de Somerville on September 20—The event went very well. Interesting with different starting point (Assembly Row instead of the usual Seven Hills Park). 100 participants. The bike police worked well in the absence of a patrol car, and this is the SBC's preferred arrangement for future rides.
2. High school representative application status and next steps (Ariel)- We have one application via Mark Neidergang, Andrew C. Will invite him to attend the next meeting and have him join the committee in an advisory capacity. Set expectations as far as attendance, options for getting involved in projects.
3. Whole Foods monthly walk/ride breakfasts--next is Friday, October 31. They intend to hold these all year round, but October 31 will be the last one held outdoors until next spring. **Ken to encourage Whole Foods to apply for an LAB Bicycle Friendly Business (we should encourage other businesses to apply as well).** Check in with Jessi to get feedback from business perspective. Action Item: SBC to identify list of Somerville BFB candidates and encourage them to apply.
4. Vigil for Moe Zeidan, 10/19- Ron and Alex attended the vigil. Moe was fatally injured in Medford on Rt 16 near Winthrop St. The Medford Bicycle Committee dedicated a ghost bike (near the band shell) and held a ceremony.
5. Hubway art bike unveiling, Thursday, 10/23. Design competition. Winner has been selected. Unveiling has been re-scheduled for a rain-free event. **We should advertise on the listserve, web site and FB.**

Infrastructure:

1. Casino bike/ped bridge to Everett- There is a strong interest in this but we should wait for clarity post the election. **[Add to standing items]**
2. Green Lanes (Sarah)- Traffic and Parking painted green lanes recently in paint; more long lasting thermoplastic green lanes will follow. This Fall the City is testing some thermoplastic on a small stretch of Broadway to see how it weathers. Ultimately the plan is to deploy thermoplastic sheets in the Spring particularly in conflict zones. It was noted that conflict zones are generally where the current test paint is not found. Community has positive feedback so far on the green bike lanes, mostly in terms of the "green carpet" look making them feel like the street design gives them more respect and visibility.
3. Bikeability Audit with Massbike (Sarah / Alan)- A state program, Mass in Motion Safety in conjunction with MassBike is conducting bikeability audits near schools and streets that are not part of a larger infrastructure project (e.g. from the High school to Winter Hill School to East Somerville Community School).
4. Status of 2014 infrastructure proposals presented to T&P (Sarah)- All of these projects are now top of the list for 2015.
 - Summer Street, Davis Sq to Union Sq--completing missing segment, correcting eastern half, and adding sharrows
 - Park St, Fitchburg RR to Somerville Ave- this is high priority
 - Webster Ave, Cambridge city line to Union Sq--extension to Prospect Street- We should re-visit this project since parking may be illegal on both sides of Webster between Prospect and the Cambridge line. Apparently the "No Parking" signs have been illegally removed. The Committee accordingly recommends protected or at least buffered bike lanes on both sides of the street. **Sarah to ask Terry about the parking situation.**
 - Prospect St, Webster Ave to Union Sq
 - School St, between Medford St and Highland Ave. This was confusing to the City since a two-

way cycletrack was originally proposed by the committee. The committee now recommends a conventional bike lane along this block.

5. Central Broadway Streetscape Improvements project (Sarah). The next meeting will be some time over the winter. Presentation is on Somerville by Design web site. Three options- Two-way cycletrack, standard cycle track, and bikelanes. The standard cycletrack appears to be the preferred option. A charette process is coming up for Winter Hill (two day charette starting a week from today).
6. East Somerville Community School bike parking findings from Joel Bennett- Joel conducted counting. There are 24 U racks (48 total spaces available) and most are in use. However none are covered which is a missed opportunity for this new construction. School bike parking could be a good topic for our new high school representative.
7. Hubway update- The system has reached a million rides this year. Usage has increased steadily. Somerville Hubway stations will close by end of November (Boston will be open until end of December). There is interest on the committee to find out what would it cost Somerville to keep some stations open over the winter (e.g. Davis and Union Squares). New stations are being considered (e.g. Assembly Square) for 2015 but no specifics yet.
8. Davis Square Streetscape Improvements- Construction is anticipated later in 2015. Proceeding with designs for Cutter Plaza (Cutter and Elm intersection, in front of Rosebud). Potential for priority lanes on Elm and Highland. Cutter Ave. will be sharrowed. New plans are not yet available. The traffic light at Cutter and Highland will be modified. There was considerable discussion about the optimal way to configure the left and right turns for bicycles on Cutter Ave. turning on to Highland and whether bikes should be encouraged to travel along the right up to the intersection with Highland, then queue between the left and right turn lanes (as currently happens on Beacon Street at the intersection with Somerville Ave)

Policy and Enforcement:

1. Truck sideguard safety pilot--update on Boston (Alex)- Boston is moving forward with their filed ordinance, which would require all city-owned and city-contracted trucks to install sideguards, crossview mirrors, and convex side mirrors. There is a City Council hearing on October 28 regarding the ordinance. The City of Cambridge is meanwhile pursuing a broader sideguard and truck safety plan. Somerville DPW future truck purchases will include sideguards. Retrofitting older trucks and private trucks is being discussed in the City.

Standing Items

1. Beacon Street
2. Union Square Streetscape and Utility Plan update
3. Bow St/Summer St intersection improvement planning status
4. McGrath boulevard and interim improvements
5. Neighborways
6. Traffic Commission temporal one-way exception request
7. Citywide school bike parking utilization inventory
8. Community Path Extension
9. Safety information mailings